



Minutes of the Regular Meeting
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Wednesday, February 4, 2004
Mountain View Park Community Center
8625 E. Mountain View Road

Present: Chairperson Leigh Hersey, Commissioners Dean Cerimeli, Bill Heckman, and Nona Oliver

Absent: Vice-chair Donn Loper, Commissioners Shelley Anderson and Stephen Owens

Staff Present: Brad Bishop, Jona Davis, Christy Hill, Erin McKallor-Quill, Bob McNair, William Murphy, Doug Nesselroad, Judy Weiss, and Rose Williams, Alison Tymkiw

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Hersey called the meeting to order at 5 p.m.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Chairperson asked everyone to observe a moment of silence.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Commissioner Heckman moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of January 21, 2004 as corrected. Commissioner Cerimeli seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT OF CURRENT EVENTS (A.R.S. § 38-431.02(K))

Judy Weiss, Manager, and William Murphy, Service Manager, updated the Commission on the status of events and activities of the Parks, Recreation, & Facilities Division. Ms. Weiss advised the Arizona Parks and Recreation Associations Annual Conference will be August 31, 2004 through September 4, 2004. The Boards and Commissions Day will be September 2, 2004. Included in the packets this evening are an updated address list and an updated calendar. The next Commission meeting will be February 18, 2004 at the City Hall Kiva. International Club members attended a Phoenix Coyotes hockey game on tickets donated by Vista Del Camino and Scottsdale Wesleyan Church. They also received a donation of tickets to Disney On Ice. Mr. Murphy advised that the Giants Fantasy Camp was held at the Scottsdale Stadium and Indian School Park during the last week of January.

MCDOWELL MOUNTAIN RANCH PARK AND AQUATIC CENTER SCHEMATIC DESIGN PRESENTATION

Judy Weiss, Parks, Recreation and Facilities Manager, introduced Phil Weddle of WeddleGilmore Architects, who presented the schematic designs for the McDowell Mountain Ranch Park and Aquatic

Center project. Mr. Weddle introduced his colleague, Ralph Smith. Mr. Weddle described in detail the schematic plans for the pool facilities, the open recreation area, and the skatepark facility.

Commissioner Oliver asked if there is a curb in the drop off zone around the parking. Mr. Weddle said there are accessible parking sites with ramps and the drop off area may be depressed to provide a flush entry. Commissioner Oliver noted the shower handles could be placed higher so that children would not congregate in the showers. Mr. Weddle said there are ADA parameters regarding the height of handles. There has been talk about having shower towers on the pool deck to help reduce congestion in the showers.

Commissioner Heckman asked if the loop road is approved and funded. Mr. Weddle said it is being developed in the budget of the project. Ms. Weiss said staff is working with the Bureau of Reclamation to get a categorical exclusion as most of the road will be on their land. Staff is waiting for confirmation and is reasonably confident it will be approved. The loop road is in the budget and is planned and the public was interested in this amenity. Commissioner Heckman asked if the road will be paid for by parks or transportation. Ms. Weiss said it is in the park budget as its primary use is to access the park. Commissioner Heckman asked if meetings with residents have taken place to display these plans. Ms. Weiss said there have been 2 meetings with the kids on the skatepark and staff held an open house on December 2nd at the Via Linda Senior Center where about 40-50 residents attended. Staff has had additional contact with Homeowners' Association and the schematic boards are on display at the community center. The neighborhood was also notified of tonight's meeting. Commissioner Heckman asked if the plans are far enough along to look at potential building materials. Mr. Weddle said they have and have been submitted to the Development Review Board. The exterior materials are very similar to the original master plan submittal. Mr. Weddle showed the planned elevations. Commissioner Heckman asked if the Operating and Management budget is it still subject to future processes. Ms. Weiss said the operating money is a part of the 5-year plan at this point. Commissioner Heckman asked if the loop road will have a hefty price tag and if budget conditions do not improve could development of it be held back. Ms. Weiss said the intent is to build the loop road as it was an important component of the citizen input.

Commissioner Cerimeli asked what is the planned capacity of the pool. Mr. Weddle said there are a variety of ways to determine capacity. Where the Health Department is concerned, it comes down to water area and the number of fixtures provided. Based on that, the capacity will be about 800. Commissioner Cerimeli asked how many parking spots will be in the middle area. Mr. Weddle said there are about 170 spaces in the center, 30 by the open recreation area, and 30 more on southern end, which will be more for staff and service parking. There are connections to other parking areas. Commissioner Cerimeli asked what other changes were made to the master plan as a result of citizen input. Mr. Weddle noted there has been a huge amount of community input on this project. The entire master plan is a result of community input. The shift in the site plan, maintaining a desert environment, the loop road, the skatepark, and the aquatics amenities are all a direct result of this input.

Commissioner Heckman asked about the overflow parking provision. Mr. Weddle said the intent is to connect into the pedestrian infrastructure that already exists. There are about 40 or 50 spaces that already has a pedestrian connection. With offsets in scheduling the uses, staff feels there is ample overflow parking to accommodate the users. Ms. Weiss said we can control the type and scope of events. Staff has committed to the neighbors that the events would not be regional or large in scale. Commissioner Heckman asked how does the skatepark compare in size and degree of difficulty to Eldorado. Mr. Weddle said it is about 18,000 sq. ft., which is similar to Eldorado. It will be a different unique type of skatepark and have a variety of difficulty levels.

Chairperson Hersey asked if the aquatics center will be fee based. Ms. Weiss said it would. Chairperson Hersey asked if there will be accessible restrooms for the skatepark users so they do not have to go into the pool. Mr. Weddle said there are planned restroom facilities outside the pool area. Chairperson Hersey what kinds of seating is planned. Mr. Weddle noted permanent seating along the north side of the pool which will be shaded. Terraced steps on the south side of the pool deck, a raised planter along the eastern side of the pool and a sculptural wall with seating on all sides.

Commissioner Oliver asked what lighting will be in the overflow parking lot. Mr. Weddle said it is an existing parking lot and is already lit.

Commissioner Cerimeli moved to approve the schematic designs as presented. Commissioner Heckman seconded and carried unanimously.

MCCORMICK UPDATE AND SAFETY TOWN PROPOSAL

Bob McNair, Senior Recreation Coordinator, provided the Commission with an update of the operations at McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park including current and future projects. Peter Rusin from Health World gave a presentation on a proposed educational safety town that would be located at the Park.

Commissioner Heckman asked if parking on Rocking Road is no longer an option. Mr. McNair said the city sold the property on the corner. During a parking study, staff looked at options that were available such as re-striping, a parking garage, and the water reservoir. Commissioner Heckman feels the logical answer is to connect across Indian Bend with a bridge or a better tunnel so you don't have to cross the street. In the presentation, Mr. McNair said that a traffic light is needed on the east entrance to the park to assist cars across the street to the park's overflow area on the north side of Indian Bend Rd. This will become even more important when Indian Bend goes to 4 lanes. The light will also assist pedestrians across the street. Mr. McNair said staff is currently working with Mr. Rusin and his group and looking at the west side of Scottsdale Road to do something on that property. That has not proved successful so far but staff will keep trying.

Chairperson Hersey asked who are the members who attend "Members Night" at Holiday Lights. Mr. McNair said they are members of the Mechanical Society and that members receive free rides on the train and carousel as well as entrance into the parks museum.

Commissioner Cerimeli is this a free facility. Mr. Rusin said some fee would be charged for the camp and individual visits, possibly between \$.50 to \$1. Cerimeli each bldg represents a different health subject. Mr. Rusin either a health or safety subject. Work with the Historical Society on plaques designating the importance of the building.

Commissioner Heckman feels this is a great plan and loves the historic buildings from the community element. The location on the reservoir seems logical. Will it operate on the weekend. Mr. Rusin said the organization wouldn't initially do it but it will be looked at in the future. School groups drive attendance.

Commissioner Oliver asked where on the property is the site planned. Mr. Rusin said on the cement pad of the water reservoir. Commissioner Oliver asked if the City would lease the land to the organization. Mr. McNair said there will be a license agreement on a month to month basis. A portion of the fees would go to either the City or the Mechanical Society to help with projects in the park.

Commissioner Cerimeli asked how many staff would work at the site. Mr. Rusin said it depends. The attendance is estimated to be about 200,000 then there would be a need for 8 or 10 staff members.

PARK NAMING POLICY REVISION

Judy Weiss, Parks, Recreation and Facilities Manager, presented a revision to the park naming policy that was first approved in the 1970s.

Commissioner Cerimeli asked what staff would do about requests that don't meet the criteria. Ms. Weiss said each would be handled individually and would depend on the situation.

Commissioner Cerimeli moved to approve the revised Park Naming Policy as submitted. Commissioner Oliver seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

DRAFT

OPEN CALL TO THE PUBLIC (A.R.S. § 38-431.02)

Chairperson Hersey called for any items from the floor. There were none. Chairperson Hersey asked for any items from the Commission. Commissioner Heckman would like to have an update on Westworld on a future agenda.

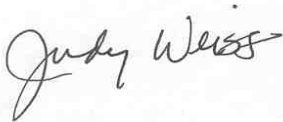
ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Heckman moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Cerimeli seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

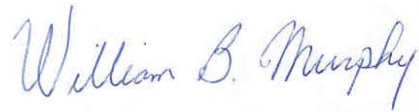
With no further business to be brought before the Commission, Chairperson Hersey adjourned the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Ruth Johnson, Recording Secretary.

Meets established criteria.



Judy Weiss
Manager



William Murphy
Service Manager